


# Tutorial for Using an Adjustment Layer to Tone Correct an Image in a Specific Location

By Stan Ashbrook, 8/24/03

This tutorial will use a Levels Adjustment Layer to lighten the face of a boy that is in the shadows without affecting the brightness of the rest of the image.



1. With your image open, add a Levels Adjustment layer by selecting from the Layers Palette, Add Adjustment Layer > Reveal All or by clicking on the Adjustment Layer Icon on  the bottom of the Layers palette.

2. In the Adjustment Layer dialog box move the right and middle sliders to the left so that the face is brightened and is acceptable.
3. The Adjustment layer has a Mask that is filled with white. When a mask is filled with white it reveals the adjustment. When it is filled with black it hides or masks the adjustment. In this case the white reveals the adjustment on the whole image. The background and part of the boy is now too bright.



4. Next fill the Adjustment layer mask with black to hide the adjustment from the image. Press the letter "D" on the keyboard to make select the default foreground and background colors. If black isn't the foreground color, press the letter "X" on the keyboard. To fill the Mask select Foreground Color from the Edit > Fill menu or Press the Alt + Backspace key on the Keyboard.



5. To let the adjustment show in the boy's face we need to fill his face with white. One way to do this is to do a loose selection around the boy's face and then feather the selection by about 10-15 pixels. With the Adjustment Layer active, make white the foreground color and fill the selection with white using either of the above methods.

6. I think a better way is to select the Brush and with about a 100 pixel soft edge brush and the Opacity set to about 25%, with white as Foreground color paint with White in the boy's face where you want the adjustment to show.

If you are using a Wacom Tablet, the brush is pressure



sensitive. Unfortunately the default is the pen will change size with pressure. In order to change this to pressure sensitive in Photoshop 7.0 go to the Brushes palette, uncheck Shape Dynamics and check Other Dynamics and in the Control box select Pen Pressure.

In Photoshop Elements, it is a little more difficult. You have to go to Load the Pen Pressure Brush Set, select a brush that looks round and in the more Options in the Brush Options bar, change it's Spacing to 25%, all other sliders to 0 and Roundness to 100% and Angle to 0 to get a soft brush pressure sensitive brush. You can change it's size to 100. Next go to the Brushes palette and click on the little arrow next to icon showing the brush preview, just left of Size. From there you can click on the little arrow in this dialog box and select New Brush to save this brush.

7. A simpler way is to download the Stans Pen Opacity brush set as described in a tutorial found in the Tutorials page on the [www.computerphoto.org](http://www.computerphoto.org) web site. Using these brushes allow you to paint with white using your pressure sensitive brush and pressing just enough to the adjustment you want.

